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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
34TH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ENERGY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 11, 1979

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Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Allegations

Dear Admiral Turner:

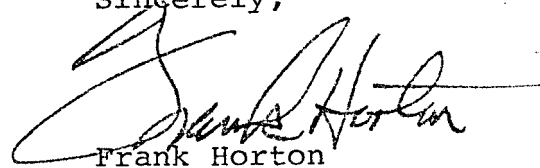
My constituent, Rabbi Gary Atkins of Rochester, New York, has contacted me regarding his concern over the possible employment of Nazis by the CIA. Enclosed is a copy of his letter, together with relevant articles alleging such employment.

Like Rabbi Atkins, I am deeply concerned over the personal and professional qualities of all Federal workers. Consequently, I will be awaiting your comments on this important matter.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this inquiry.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,


Frank Horton

FH:db

Enclosures

Temple Beth David

AARON SOLOMON
RABBI EMERITUS

GARY L. ATKINS, Rabbi

3200 ST. PAUL BOULEVARD • ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14617

Phone: 266-3223

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December 15, 1978

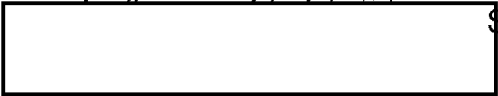
Congressman Frank Horton
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman,

The enclosed articles state that our government, especially the CIA, both employs and defends individuals with known Nazi histories and direct complicity in the extermination of millions of innocent people. I find this amazing to believe, but doubt that I would get any serious response from the CIA were I to ask them.

I would appreciate your checking and obtaining whatever responses on this question you can get. If you share my moral feelings I hope you will take whatever actions you feel appropriate.

Sincerely yours, *GA*

 STA
Rabbi Gary L. Atkins

GLA:jg
Enc. (2)

INS Knew of Nazis Before Entry

ALBANY (JTA) — The names of at least three alleged Latvian Nazi war criminals now living in the United States were known to immigration authorities before the men entered this country, Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal has charged here.

IN A TAPING FOR "Heritage and Destiny," a television program produced by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the local Jewish federation on the Albany ABC affiliate, Wiesenthal said that the names of Vilis Hazners, Karlis Detlavs and Edgars Laipenieks were on a list of 50 criminals from the Baltic countries that he published in 1949.

"We were searching in some displaced persons camps in Germany, because these people in 1944 escaped with the Germans," he said. "I sent this list to an American newspaper, and they sent it to the immigration authorities."

Hazners, 73, now lives in the Washington County town of Dresden, N.Y., 60 miles northeast of Albany. He is charged by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service with having entered the country illegally in 1956 from Hamburg, Germany, by failing to disclose his participation as a senior military official in Nazi-sponsored war crimes in the vicinity of Riga. It has been established that he was employed by the CIA-funded Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

DETLAVS, 67, OF Baltimore, Md., entered the U.S. in 1950 and is also charged with failure to disclose his participation in Nazi war crimes. He allegedly served as a guard in Salaspils death camp, and took part in shooting and selection of Jews in Riga. Both Hazners and Detlavs are in the midst of court procedures, represented by

the same attorney, Ivars Berzins. The Hazners case has been inactive since the spring.

The INS has not yet brought formal charges against Laipenieks, the third Latvian that Wiesenthal named. Now residing in San Diego, Cal., Laipenieks, 65, allegedly killed Jews in the central prison in Riga. According to journalist and Nazi war criminal expert Charles R. Allen, Jr., the CIA, Laipenieks' employer for more than 14 years, has intervened on his behalf.

"The guilt of the Nazi helpers in the occupied territories, especially the Eastern countries is, in my opinion, greater than the guilt of the (German) Nazis," Wiesenthal said. "They were perfect criminals; they were voluntary. They were living in the same places as the victims, going to the same schools, knew each other. Sometimes they had common businesses, and in the end they had a profit from the profiteers."

"DURING THE COLD War in the 1950s," he continued, "these people entered the U.S. and now they are here. For me, there is not any doubt that these people are guilty."

Dr. Cha

Ral
leader

Solomon
ture on the literature of the Golden Age of Spain and its influence on Jewish life, as part of the Solomon Zeitlin Lecture Series sponsored by the Friends of the Dropsie University, Thursday, 12:45 p.m., at the Balch Institute, 18 S. 7th St.

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Sh'ma

a journal of Jewish responsibility

9/163, DECEMBER 8, 1978

Tolerating the nazis among us

Nora Levin

We have been unconscionable in neglecting the active monitoring of the prosecution of Nazi criminals in this country and should, at the very least, try to mobilize our communities behind this effort before it is too late — if, indeed, it is not too late already. Several important cases have recently been lost — those of Hazners, Detlev, and Fedorenko. At least one defendant has instituted a libel suit; more are expected. The government's record of bungling, obstruction, evasiveness, and downright refusal to prosecute with the best legal talent available has produced these acquittals as well as the long history of foot-dragging, if not actual complicity. As a result, there hangs in the air the poisonous notion that Jews have exaggerated the Nazi crimes and the events of the Holocaust. A wave of libel suits will further throw a cloud of doubt over the Jewish Catastrophe.

I have had the same experience as Rochelle Wolk (*Sh'ma* 8/157) in not being able to prod Jewish agency staff people to take this matter seriously. They have told me, "It is not a first priority on our agenda." Individuals on an Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Lawyers and Educators in Philadelphia have been dealt with rudely and abruptly when they have tried to discuss important developments: the incompetence of the present government prosecution staff; the failure of

Mr. Martin Mendelsohn, head of that staff, to supply us with logs of cases; the failure of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law to secure documents bearing on these criminals from the F.B.I., C.I.A. and Immigration and Naturalization Service, although cooperation had been promised. Nor has the National Jewish Community Relations Council seen fit to put the matter of prosecution of Nazi criminals in the U.S. on its program agenda for 1978-79. Why not? one is bound to ask. Is it not as important to Jews as the Bakke case, or the abortion issue, or aid to parochial schools, and other issues over which our "defense" agencies have poured out so much ink?

We Lack Skills to Prosecute Properly

Our communities have not even been given the most elementary information about the current confusion surrounding Mr. Mendelsohn's authority in prosecuting the cases; the fact that no one on his staff has any grasp of the historical context in which the crimes were committed — no understanding of the hierarchical structure of the concentration camps and death camps and no knowledge of the tons of documentation available in Israel, West Germany and Yugoslavia — if only they were tapped; the coming trials of two of the most heinous criminals of the Holocaust — Andrija Artukovic, a leader of the murderous *Ustashi* in Croatia, and Viorel Trifa, a leader of the Romanian Iron Guard. There is the bleak prospect that appropriate witnesses will not be found or properly oriented (as was the case in the Fedorenko trial), that documentary evidence will not be utilized, and that Jewish communities will be ill-prepared to react on any level.

It should be recognized that there are at least 200 Nazi criminals at large in the United States, enjoying American freedom, hospitality, and citizenship. Our government's record in having admitted them and in protecting them has been scandalous. But the record of American Jewry has also been deplorable. My fervent hope is that, as the new year unfolds, we make this issue a first priority and put it on the agenda of every Jewish organization in the country. Our action must include: pressure on the Administration to beef up the prosecution staffs; pressure on government agencies to release their voluminous files to the House Subcommittee; pressure to secure logs of cases so that trials can be monitored on a regular basis. This will be our last chance to confront mass murderers with the evidence of their crimes.

Religion in the schools, a case study

Ruth Barnett Kaye

Controversial problems of separation of church and state continue throughout the country. This issue never seems to die completely. From time to time the question of religion in public schools seems to become the focal point of a community's concerns. School authorities and parents always take the reins and handle the situation for their children. But what about the children's feelings? These are often overlooked and the children are not consulted at all. Moreover, buried feelings on the child's part can remain throughout life, adding to their confusion.

Specifically, religious music programs in the public schools seem to provide battlegrounds for challenges on behalf of separation of church and state. Having always been involved in music programs myself, the 1972 controversy in Westfield, New Jersey proved to be quite a conflicting experience for me; conflicting in the sense of personal loyalties and priorities. Being both a Jew and an active music participant, my sense of loyalty was to be challenged.

This was not the first time that Westfield, an affluent, predominantly Christian community, had a battle over religion in the public schools. From 1965 to 1972, repeated attempts had been made to convince the Westfield Board of Education that its Christmas program was unconstitutional. Minor changes had been made in the past to pacify some objectors. But since these changes were not significant enough, it seemed inevitable that at some point there would be a major clash.

The Christmas Pageant Was Traditional

The Westfield Senior High School choir was one of the best in the state. Since the 1920's, it had been a tradition in Westfield to have a Christmas pageant ("Art Masterpieces"), annually in the school. Rehearsals for this program were held both during and after school hours. The choir sang in the orchestra pit while the art department displayed scenes of Nativity on stage. These scenes portrayed famous Christian paintings, mainly depicting the birth of Christ. It was a heavily religious program, all very lovely and church-like, and compulsory for students to attend. And, since choir was a credit-course, it was mandatory for members to participate in this pageant in order to receive credit.

In 1965, some members of the Jewish community wanted to bring a law suit against the Board of Education to stop the religious pageant which included a procession of students in robes and the fact that attendance was compulsory, among other things. A small representative committee was formed to dissuade the would-be plaintiffs. This "bargaining" committee was able to do away with some of the more disturbing elements, (such as compulsory attendance), but the Christmas pageant, for the most part, remained intact. However, at that time, the opposition settled down.

The Board Supports Religious Programs

On October 3, 1972, however, the Westfield Board of Education brought religion back into

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a journal of Jewish responsibility

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